

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SY-05 IO-10 L-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

/078 W

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R 251105Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5706

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0590

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CT, PFOR, PORG (PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION)

SUBJECT: EMBASSY APPROACH TO GOCAR RE PLO

REF: A. BANGUI 575 B. BANGUI 518 C. STATE 87939

1. AS ENVISAGED REFTEL (A) I DISCUSSED WITH YANGONGO, SECSTATE FOR FONAFF, ON APRIL 24 THE OPENING OF PLO OFFICE IN BANGUI ALONG LINES OF PARA 3 REFTEL (B) CONCLUDING WITH OBSERVATION THAT ONEROUS SECURITY PROBLEM POSED BY PRESENCE OF PLO HERE COULD BE MORE TROUBLE THAN IT IS WORTH.

2. YANGONGO COMMENTED FIRST OF ALL THAT GOCAR HAD NOT YET AGREED TO PLO'S WISH TO OPEN OFFICE IN BANGUI. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF MEANING OF WORDING IN APRIL 21 RADIO BROADCAST WHICH WAS THE QUOTE THE TWO DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED THE WISH TO SEE THEIR COOPERATION BE GIVEN CONCRETE EXPRESSION BY THE OPENING IN BANGUI OF AN OFFICE OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE . . . UNQUOTE. YANGONGO REPEATED THAT THE WISH REFERRED TO WAS ONLY THAT OF THE PALESTINIANS AND THE QUESTION WAS STILL VERY MUCH OPEN.

3. SECSTATE REMARKED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD THREE
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ASPECTS: FINANCIAL, POLITICAL AND JURIDICAL. WHEREAS THE

FIRST ASPECT, CONCERNING THE PRICE TO BE PAID BY THE PLO FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF HAVING A PRESENCE HERE, IS WELL ON WAY TO BEING SETTLED, THE SECOND QUESTION REMAINS OPEN BECAUSE THE GOCAR HAS SOME DOUBTS ABOUT WHAT ACTIVITIES PLO WOULD WISH TO CARRY ON HERE. REGARDING JURIDICAL ASPECT GOCAR HAS NOT YET DETERMINED WHAT STATUS PLO OFFICE WOULD HAVE.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION, YANGONGO STATED THAT POINTS WE MADE WOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION BY GOCAR UNDER SECOND HEADING ABOVE NAMELY POLITICAL. HE AGREED WITH OUR ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBILITIES OF TERRORISM AND SAID HE DISAPPROVED OF PLO'S PAST RECORD IN THIS RESPECT. HE ADDED THAT GOCAR WOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY OF PROTECTION OF EMBASSY AND STAFF IN CASE PLO GRANTED PERMISSION TO OPEN OFFICE IN BANGUI.

5. COMMENT: WORDING OF RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT ON APRIL 21 IS IDENTICAL TO JOINT MINUTE TRANSMITTED BANGUI 452. IF BOTH DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED WISH TO OPEN OFFICE AND UNDERTAKING IS SIGNED BY BOTH PARTIES, IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESCAPE CONCLUSION THAT PLO HAS SUCH PERMISSION. YANGONGO'S INTERPRETATION AS DESCRIBED PARA 2 ABOVE, HOWEVER, IS NOT UNUSUAL IN CAR WHERE COMMITMENTS QUITE OFTEN TURN OUT TO BE MORE APPARENT THAN REAL. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE YANGONGO INTENDS TO CARRY OUT PROVISION OF JOINT MINUTE AND WAS STALLING ME. IF SO, HE WAS A GOOD ACTOR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGUI00590
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750146-0365
From: BANGUI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750414/aaaaamor.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BANGUI 575, 75 BANGUI 518, 75 STATE 87939
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <11 SEP 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMBASSY APPROACH TO GOCAR RE PLO
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, CT, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006